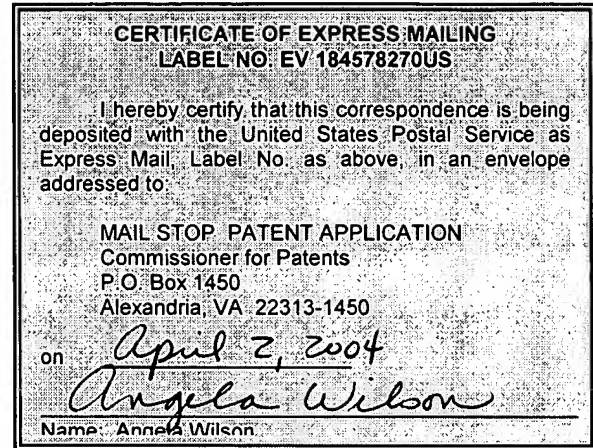


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Dickey, Thomas C.
For : CONTAINER TRIMMING APPARATUS
U.S. Serial No.: New Filing
Filed: New Filing
Group Art Unit: 3722
Examiner: Willmon Fridie, Jr.

MAIL STOP NEW APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for filing a Continuation of parent application Serial No. 10/358/839, filed February 5, 2003. Before examining the new continuation application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment.